



¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for better furnishing the Nauy,
and Shipping of the Realme, with able and
skilfull Mariners.



Hereas the most Excellent, High & Mighty Prince, King JAMES, of most noble and blessed memory, Our most deare and Royal Father, out of his Princely and prouident care of the safety and honour of his Kingdomes and people, and for the continuance and maintaining of the Navigation of this Realme, and to the intent that skilfull Mariners, and Sea-faring men might be alwaies in readinesse, to furnish, as wel his owne Royal Nauy, as the Shipping of his louing Subiects, did by Proclamation, dated the sixth day of August, in the twentieth yere of his Reigne, straitly inhibite and forbid, That no Mariner, or Sea-faring man, Ship-wright, or Ship-carpenter whatsoeuer, being his Subiect, should without expresse Licence of himselfe, or his Admirall of England, enter, or attempt, or goe about to enter into the Service of any forreine Prince or State, or be imployed out of this Realme, in any service whatsoeuer, vnlesse it were in the Service of the said late King, Our most deare Father, or of some of his liege Subiects: And did afterwards by a later Proclamation, dated the seuen and twentieth day of February, then following, further straitly charge and command, That no Mariner, or Sea-faring man should absent, hide, or withdraw himselfe from his late Maiesties Service or Prests, and that all such persons hauing Prest-money giuen, or tendred vnto them, should duetiffully, and reuerently receiue the same, and repaire aboard the Ships appointed, and continue in that Service, as to the duety of good Subiects appertained, and not withdraw themselves, or depart there-from, without speciall Licence: And did lately by another Proclamation, bearing date the twentieth day of this instant moneth of March, likewise straitly inhibite and forbid, That no Owner or Master of any Ship or Vessel, nor any other, setting forth any vessels of Trade, Fishing, or otherwise, should hire, or entertaine any Mariner, or Sea-faring man, knowing him to haue offended against either of the said Proclamations: and if such Owner, or other person not knowing of the said offences, should hire or entertaine any such offender or offenders, did wil and command, That forthwith, vpon notice of any the said offences, they should deliuer such offenders ouer vnto the next Justice of Peace, Maior, Bayliffe, Constable, or other officer to be imprisoned, vntill the said offenders should giue sufficient Bond and Caution, for their forth comming and appearance, in such Court, or place of Justice, vnto which it might appertaine, to haue them proceeded against and punished, according to their demerites, and withall, that the said Masters, Owners, & other persons, should forbear to pay to the said offenders any wages.

And did further thereby straitly charge and command all Lieutenants, Deputy-Lieutenants, Iustices of Peace, Maiors, Bayliffes, Constables, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and officers, as well of the Admiraltie, as of the Ports, and also all and every person and persons, to whom any Commission, Deputation, or Letters of Assistance should be directed, for the presting of Mariners, and Seafaring men for publique service, that they should from time to time vse all possible diligence, and endeauour, to apprehend, and cause to be apprehended, aswell all such Mariners and Seafaring men, offending, as aforesaid, as also all such Owners, Masters, and others, as should entertaine or hire them, or pay them any wages, or otherwise helpe them to escape the hands of Justice; and such as they should apprehend, they should, with Certificate of their names and offences, binde ouer to appeare before the Commissioners of his Maiesties Hauie, in London, to be by them committed, and deliuered ouer to the ordinarie course of Justice, either in the Court of Starre-chamber, or of the Admiraltie, or otherwise, as the qualitie of the offence should require, with speciall charge and commandement to all Prest-masters, and their Assistants, that they should publish the names of all such, as should be prested by them in the Ports where they should be taken, as also deliuer a note of their names to the officers of the Ports, and others who were fittest to discover them, if they should faile in the performance of their dueties, as in and by the said seuerall Proclamations more at large appeareth.

Now we, hauing taken the premisses into Our Princely consideration, and aduised seriously thereof with Our Priny Councell, finding how necessary it is, both for the safety and honour of this Our Kingdome and State, That all the seuerall Proclamations before mentioned, should be put in due execution, for preuenting and suppressing the manifold abuses, contempts, and neglects heretofore committed in seruices of so weightie consequence; Doe hereby straitly charge and command that all the sayd Proclamations, and every branch and article therein contained, be continued at all times hereafter, and be from time to time hereafter carefully obserued, and put in exact execution, as fully, and effectually, as the same should, or might haue beene in the life time of Our said deare Father, vpon the paines and penalties specified in the said Proclamations, and such further punishments, as by Our Lawes or Prerogative Royall may be inflicted vpon the offenders:

Letting all Our louing Subjects hereby know, That, as Our said most deare and Royall Father, in the publishing of the last of the said Proclamations had a gracious eye vnto the speciall service then intended, and to be now shortly performed; So we rest assured, that none of Our said Subjects in the aduancement thereof (so much concerning the safetie of Our Kingdomes and Our Imperiall Crowne and Dignity) will be wanting to doe their vttermost in making Vs such a supply, as may giue testimony of their extraordinary care, faithfulness, and dutifull affection towards Vs, who had much rather haue cause to expresse Our gracious acceptance thereof at their hands, then be enforced to any other course, which the necessitie and importance of Our service will otherwise require.

Giuen at Our Court at S. Iames, the one and thirtieth day of March, in the first yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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M. D. C. XXV.